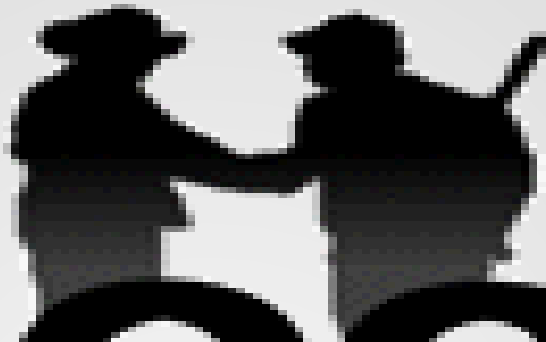


# Region 5 Annual Summaryfor the 2013 Hunting Season



# BLOCK MANAGEMENT

*Prepared by: Dale Nixdorf*

*Date: February 27, 2014*

## Statistical Summary

### **Total number of Cooperators: 160**

- How many new cooperators were enrolled? 1
- How many cooperators were not re-enrolled? 10
- Identify reasons for not re-enrolling, if known: (there are cooperators in the table below that had multiple BMAs and are still enrolled, but withdrew one of their enrolled BMAs)
- How many potential cooperators could not be enrolled due to limited funding? 0

### **Total number of contracts: 170**

### **Total number of BMAs: 131 + 1 Access Corridor to USFS**

### **Total number of acres enrolled: 678,997**

- Total acres of private land: 603,816
- Total acres of non-private land (state, BLM, USFS, other): 75,181

Richard Tietjens	Dept. did not offer re-enrollment due to lack of use on BMA.
Justin Downs	Property sold. Cooperator assumed Dan Downs contract.
Dan Downs	Cooperator deceased. Contract was assumed by Justin Downs.
Gary Heiken	Cooperator no longer leasing property. Property is enrolled by new lessee.
Ken Wahl	Cooperator deceased.
Kilby Butte Colony	Cooperator frustrated over not drawing elk permits using landowner preference. Biologist discussed contractual elk agreement (HB454) with cooperator but no agreement was reached. Cooperator had property in two BMAs and continued enrollment in one.
Rawhide Ranch	Hunter days dropped enough to affect payment and cooperator was not interested in enrolling for reduced amount.
Jim Ott	Property sold.
Larry Steiger	Cooperator wanted more control of who was allowed to hunt.
Bill Clements	Cooperator displeased with hunter behavior. Cooperator had property in two BMAs and continued enrollment in one.
Ken Ross	Cooperator no longer able to manage BMA due to personal reasons. Family was not interested in continuing enrollment.
David Baird	Cooperator was going to be absent for 2013 hunting season. Was not interested in Type I BMA.
Jorden Pfliger	Cooperator did not return contract by enrollment deadline. Cooperator is interested in future enrollment.
Scott Holden	Property sold. Buyer paid seller to withdraw property prior to closing date.

- How many potential cooperators could not be enrolled due to limited funding? 0

### **Total number of contracts: 170**

### **Total number of BMAs: 131 + 1 Access Corridor to USFS**

### **Total number of acres enrolled: 678,997**

- Total acres of private land: 603,816
- Total acres of non-private land (state, BLM, USFS, other): 75,181

**Total contract dollars: \$542,886.17**

- Total hunter day & enrollment payments: \$520,927.40
- Total weed management payments: \$24,943.77
- Total hunter management services deducted: \$2,985.00

**Total number of hunters: 29,760\***

**Total number of hunter days: 36,607\***

\* Numbers reflect permission records received as of 2/27/2014. Permission records of three landowners had not been received as of yet. It is estimated, based on previous use that an additional 900 hunter days will be accounted for on these yet to be received records.

## **Timelines and Regional Process**

**Explain how the program is administered in the region, using an annual timeline to identify key deadlines for program activities.**

January-February: BMA hunter records due in office by Jan. 31. Counting and evaluation of hunter use records was done during this time. The annual report was completed and sent to Helena by February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline. Payment schedule forms were completed for each BMA.

March-April: Program allocation request submitted in March. Spring Coordinators meetings and budget allocations occur. All BMAs were evaluated using criteria shown on attached Re-Enrollment Decision Report. Biologists and wardens were given the opportunity to evaluate BMAs in their areas using these same criteria. Re-enrollment Committee met in April.

May-June: Re-enrollment contracts and supply order forms were mailed to cooperators in early May. Some materials ordered at this time (roster boxes, permission slips, sign-in coupons, aluminum signs).

July: Re-enrollment and enrollment contracts completed prior to July 12<sup>th</sup> deadline. Edited tabloid (Hunting Access Guide) layout, including chart and map edits. Considerable time and effort was put into converting previous Word format tabloid chart to Excel format. This was done to facilitate combining all seven regions into one tabloid. Tabloid information was due in Helena by July 19<sup>th</sup>. Sign orders were placed with the print shop. Began printing individual BMA maps/rules. All maps were printed using the regional office's color printer/copier.

August: Contracts and all attachments were due in Helena by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Three Hunting Access Technicians (HATs) started in mid to late August. They were responsible for the set-up (putting up signs and roster boxes) of several Type I & II BMAs that the Department provides hunter management services on. Information was available to the public beginning August 15<sup>th</sup>. Hunters could make reservations starting August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Administrative Support staff mailed and handed

## **Hunter/Landowner Comments or Complaints**

**Were any formal complaints filed for this season (if yes, explain below)?** No

**Total number of Hunter Comment Cards received:** 0

- Number and percent of total hunters who observed game: N/A
- Number and percent of total hunters who bagged game: N/A
- Number and percent of total hunters who rated BMA experience satisfactory: N/A

**Total number of completed Daily Sign-In Coupons received:** 2,753 (13% return rate)

- Number and percent of total hunters who observed game: 1,458 (53%)
- Number and percent of total hunters who bagged game: 329 (12%)
- Number and percent of total hunters who rated BMA experience satisfactory: 1,973 (72%). 499 (18%) did not comment.

**Other hunter comments or complaints received (either summarize or reference as inclusion in appendix):**

- Hunters were pleased that the individual BMA rules/maps were available via the internet.
- Going to one Hunting Access Guide for all seven regions was well received.

**Landowner comments or complaints received (either summarize or reference as inclusion in appendix):**

•Landowners were given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire as part of re-enrollment in 2013. The questionnaire asked what the landowner's goals for enrolling were and if they were being met, if they were satisfied with the number of hunters and hunter days on their BMA, if they were satisfied with their current hunter management system, if they were satisfied with the way game numbers were being managed, and if they were satisfied with the current benefits to include compensation, license, FWP seasonal staff. 44 questionnaires were returned.

- Of the respondents, 36 said their goals were being met, 2 were not, and 3 were somewhat being met. 37 were satisfied with levels of hunters and 3 were not. 39 were satisfied with their current hunter management system and 2 were not. 35 were satisfied with current game number management and 6 were not. 37 were satisfied with current benefits and 4 were not.
- Of those stating their goals for enrolling in Block Management, providing manageable public hunting (23 responses) was the most common, followed by game management/game damage reduction (16), compensation (3), and enforcement (1). Landowners could identify more than one goal so these numbers do not represent individuals.

## **Harvest Information**

**Briefly summarize any methods used to gather harvest information related to block management areas in the region. If such information can be easily reported below, insert it in whatever format works best. Otherwise, reference as an inclusion in the appendix.**

- Region 5 check station data summaries for antelope and deer included in Appendix. Refer to Tables 1 & 2.
- Summary of daily sign-in comment cards showing species hunted and harvested included in Appendix. Refer to Table 3.

## **Regional Recommendations**

**Articulate any regional concerns or recommendations regarding the overall program or the program as it is currently administered in the region. Be as specific as possible, and if appropriate, identify the individual(s) citing the concern or recommendation.**

- There should be consistency between Regions when figuring payments from year to year. Currently there are at least three different methods being used across the state to calculate the coming year's contract payment. Hunter management service deductions should also be uniform, both in amount and application. Statewide consistency on these would increase Program credibility and reduce confusion, especially when cooperators have land in more than one Region.
- Rather than specifying huntable game and huntable numbers on the BMA contract, there should be a simple question asking if there are any gender/species that may not be hunted. A yes answer would clearly identify any restrictions and would require a Restriction Form be filled out to determine if the restriction constituted a loss of the gender/species impact payment.

Table 1. Distribution of antelope harvest relative to land status. Includes Region 5 antelope only, field checks and check station checks. All fawns are included in table with does. Unknown age antelope are not included in calculated percentages for individual age classes. Unknown age antelope are included in total all and % of total all.

MALES												
LAND STATUS	0.5	%0.5	1.5	%1.5	2.5	%2.5	3.5	%3.5	4.5	%4.5	UNK	%OF TOTAL
											TOTAL KNOWN AGE	TOTAL ALL
BLM			0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
BMA			10	25.6	10	25.6	5	12.8	14	35.9	3	42
FWS			0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
NFS			0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
PRI			18	16.4	24	21.8	19	17.3	49	44.5	5	110
SSS			2	14.3	1	7.1	4	28.6	7	50.0	0	14
UNK			0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
TOTAL			30	18.4	35	21.5	28	17.2	70	42.9	8	163

DOE/FAWN												
BLM	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	1
BMA	7	41.2	2	11.8	1	5.9	0	0.0	7	41.2	1	17
FWS	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
NFS	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
PRI	5	20.8	3	12.5	1	4.2	1	4.2	14	58.3	4	24
SSS	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	3
UNK	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
TOTAL	14	31.1	5	11.1	3	6.7	1	2.2	22	48.9	5	45

**Total Antelope**

BLM	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	1
BMA	7	12.5	12	21.4	11	19.6	5	8.9	21	37.5	4	56
FWS	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
NFS	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
PRI	5	3.7	21	15.7	25	18.7	20	14.9	63	47.0	9	134
SSS	1	5.9	2	11.8	2	11.8	4	23.5	8	47.1	0	17
UNK	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0
TOTAL	14	6.7	35	16.8	38	18.3	29	13.9	92	44.2	13	208

Table 6. Composition of antelope on BMAs relative to all other land status.

YEAR	MALES	%MALES	FEMALES	%FEMALES	FAWNS	%FAWNS	TOTAL	% OF TOT
BMA	42	70.0	11	18.3	7	11.7	60	27.1
ALL OTHERS	129	80.1	25	15.5	7	4.3	161	72.9
TOTAL	171	77.4	36	16.3	14	6.3	221	100.0

Table 2. Shows land status of land which deer in Region 5 were harvested on in 2013. Includes field checks and unknown aged deer.

### MULE DEER

LAND STATUS	BUCKS	%BUCKS	DOES	% of DOES	FAWNS	%FAWNS	TOTAL
BLM	19	67.9	9	32.1	0	0.0	28
BMA	69	84.1	9	11.0	4	4.9	82
FWS	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0
NFS	61	96.8	2	3.2	0	0.0	63
PRI	212	80.3	43	16.3	9	3.4	264
SSS	17	11.0	3	15.0	0	0.0	20
UNK	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
WMA	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
NPS	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0
FAS	3	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
TOTAL	383	82.9	66	14.3	13	2.8	462

### WHITETAILS

LAND STATUS	BUCKS	%BUCKS	DOES	%DOES	FAWNS	%FAWNS	TOTAL
BLM	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	2
BMA	26	48.1	12	22.2	16	29.6	54
FAS	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	2
NFS	16	50.0	11	34.4	5	15.6	32
PRI	128	44.1	107	36.9	55	19.0	290
SSS	13	72.2	3	16.7	2	11.1	18
UNK	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0
WMA	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0
TOTAL	184	46.2	133	33.4	81	20.4	398

Comparison of BMAs to all other land status combined.

### MULE DEER

	ANT+	%ANT+	ANT-	%ANT-	TOTAL
BMA	69	84.1	13	15.9	82
OTHER	314	82.6	66	17.4	380

### WHITETAILS

BMA	26	48.1	28	51.9	54
OTHER	158	45.9	186	54.1	344

Table 3. Species hunted and harvested on Type I BMAs using daily sign-in coupons.

<u>Species Hunted</u>		
Elk	197	7.2%
Deer	1544	56.1%
Antelope	485	17.6%
Upland Bird	481	17.5%
Other	46	1.7%
Total	2753	
<u>Observe Species</u>		
Yes	1458	53.0%
No	1295	47.0%
Total	2753	
<u>Bag Animal</u>		
Yes	329	12.0%
No	2424	88.0%
Total	2753	
<u>Species Bagged</u>		
Elk	6	1.8%
Deer	144	43.8%
Antelope	55	16.7%
Upland Birds	101	30.7%
Other	23	7.0%
Total	329	
Satisfactory Experience	1973	71.7%
Unsatisfactory Experience	281	10.2%
No Comment	499	18.1%
Total	2753	
Number of Comment Cards	2753	
Number of Daily Coupons	20554	
% Comment Cards Return	13.4%	